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FOREWORD

The Council of the Pali Text Society hope to continue publication of the *Journal*, if support and interest are sufficient.

The *Journal* will publish short Pali texts, translations, and commentaries on texts, catalogues and handlists of Pali books and manuscripts, and similar material.

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TWO JĀTAKA MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN BANGKOK

Although the describing of Pāli manuscripts has a fairly long history, starting with Westergaard's catalogue¹ of the manuscripts in Copenhagen, even the knowledge of collections of Pāli manuscripts kept in European libraries and museums is far from being comprehensive. A number of lists and short descriptions have appeared in earlier numbers of this *Journal*.² As far as British collections are concerned, a new catalogue of Sinhalese manuscripts in the India Office Library has appeared,³ and another describing the Neville Collection in the British Museum is in preparation.⁴ Further information about older catalogues and unpublished handlists may be found in the *Pāli Buddhist Review*.⁵

In France, the catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris is under revision, and a short supplement to Cabaton's catalogue⁶ has been published recently by Jacqueline Filliozat.⁷ The same scholar has also collected further information⁸ about Pāli manuscripts, mostly of later texts, kept in the same library.

The rich collection of Pāli manuscripts in Denmark has been described by G. Cœdès⁹ and C. E. Godakumbara¹⁰ in Volumes 2,2 and 1, respectively, of the *Catalogue of Oriental Manuscripts, Xylographs etc. in Danish Collections*. Volume 2,1 dealing with Cambodian and Burmese Pāli manuscripts is under preparation.¹¹

C. Regamey has given information¹² about a Swiss collection containing mainly Pāli manuscripts, while German collections are in the process of being catalogued in various volumes of the monumental *Verzeichnis der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland [Inventory of Oriental Manuscripts in Germany]* founded by W. Voigt (1911–1982).¹³

As far as Asia is concerned, the only Indian collection described so far seems to be that in the Adyar Library.¹⁴ In those countries where Theravāda Buddhism prevails, there is a good catalogue of the Colombo Museum¹⁵ which, however,